



*Stephanie Rawlings-Blake*  
Mayor

## PLANNING COMMISSION

*Wilbur E. "Bill" Cunningham, Chairman*

### STAFF REPORT



*Thomas J. Stosur*  
Director

**November 21, 2013**

**REQUEST:** Baltimore City Landmark Designation /Enoch Pratt House-201 W. Monument Street

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approval

**STAFF:** Ivor A. Quashie

**PETITIONER:** Maryland Historical Society

**OWNER:** Maryland Historical Society

#### **SITE/GENERAL AREA**

Site Conditions: 201 West Monument Street is a two and a half story tall occupied building at the corner of Park Avenue and West Monument Street. The building is zoned O-R-3.

General Area: 201 West Monument Street is located in the Mount Vernon neighborhood. It is located at the southwest corner of West Monument Street between North Howard Street and Park Avenue. The building is surrounded by 3 story brick houses and multi-story apartment buildings.

#### **HISTORY**

There are no previous Planning Commission actions regarding the Enoch Pratt House.

#### **CONFORMITY TO PLANS**

The proposal is also consistent with the City of Baltimore's Comprehensive Master Plan, specifically: PLAY Goal 1: Strengthen Stewardship of Historical and Cultural Resources; LIVE Objective 4: Protect and Enhance the Preservation of Baltimore's Historic Buildings and Neighborhoods.

#### **ANALYSIS**

This is the second public hearing for this structure as part the Baltimore City Landmark Designation process. The first hearing occurred when CHAP Commission reviewed and recommended approval of Landmark designation for 201 West Monument Street on September 10, 2013. The detailed CHAP staff report, specifying the historical significance of the Enoch Pratt House, is attached for reference.

The Enoch Pratt House was the home of one of Baltimore's most influential philanthropists. It was constructed for Enoch and Maria Louisa Pratt in 1846-1847 and was their home until 1911.

Enoch Pratt was a prominent businessman and philanthropist. His generosity led to the founding of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, the expansion of the Moses Sheppard Asylum (now the Sheppard Pratt Hospital), and other important institutions. The Pratt House was a fine example of a Greek revival style home, later upgraded to the fashions of the late 19th century with an expansion and addition of a mansard roof by prominent architect Edmund G. Lind. Today, it is one of only three five-bay free-standing 1830s-1840s homes left in the city. Since 1919, the Pratt House has been home to the Maryland Historical Society, the state's oldest continuously operating cultural institution. This building is significant for its associations with Enoch Pratt, the Maryland Historical Society, and its architecture.

The Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation found that The Enoch Pratt House meets CHAP Landmark Designation criteria for the following standards:

1. Is associated with events that have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of Baltimore history
2. Is associated with the lives of persons significant in Baltimore's past
3. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represents the work of a master, or that possesses high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

Staff has notified of this action 11 District City Councilmember, Hon. William Cole, IV., Baltimore National Heritage Area, Baltimore AIA Chapter, Baltimore City Historical Society, Preservation Maryland, President and CEO of the Maryland Historical Society, the CFO of the Maryland Historical Society, Mount Vernon Design Review Committee, Midtown Community Benefits District, Central District Police-Community Relations Council, Mt. Vernon-Belvedere Association, and the Mt. Vernon Cultural District.



**Thomas J. Stosur**  
**Director**